

8-2009

Review: Chicken Said, "Cluck"

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Recommended Citation

Schwedt, Rachel and DeLong, Janice A., "Review: Chicken Said, "Cluck"" (2009). *All Children's Book Reviews*. 10.

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Grant, Judyann Ackerman, *Chicken Said, "Cluck"*. Illustrated by Sue Truesdell. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780060287238. Ages 4-6

Awards: Theodore Seuss Geisel Honor Book

Description:

When Earl and Pearl decide to grow pumpkins, Chicken wants to help. While the children work hard at digging the garden and planting the seeds, the children shoo Chicken away. When they water the seeds and pull the weeds they make it clear the little fowl is not welcome. Then one day grasshoppers invade the pumpkin patch and all the children's efforts to rescue their plants prove futile. Finally, Chicken has a chance to show her worth.

Critique:

Simple vocabulary and repeated phrases make this a book that is easily mastered by the beginning reader. The young audience will have fun watching the antics of Chicken as she tries to help the children plant and tend their garden. Although her only line is "cluck," the humorous illustrations by Sue Truesdell give Chicken a great deal of personality.